

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER 25, 2008

REGULAR MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in regular session with the following members present: Chairman Billy E. Traylor, Commissioners Nathan Peters, Jr., Warren J. Yeager, Carmen L. McLemore, and Bill Williams.

Others present were: Clerk of the Circuit Court Rebecca L. Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Clerk's Finance Officer Carla Hand, County Attorney Tim McFarland, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Planner David Richardson, Solid Waste Director/Mosquito Control Director Joe Danford, Human Resource Director Denise Manuel, EMS Director Shane McGuffin, Sheriff Joe Nugent, Superintendent of Schools Tim Wilder, School Board Member George M. Cox, Port St. Joe City Commissioner John Reeves, and EDC Chairman Tom Graney.

Sheriff Joe Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., E.T.

Planner David Richardson opened the meeting with prayer, and Commissioner Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Williams, second by Commissioner Yeager, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the following consent agenda items.

1. BCC Correspondence - Request for Matching Funds (Early Learning Coalition of NW Florida)

- Request for Grant Extension (FL Dept. of Transportation)
2. Budget Amendment George Washington Museum (\$2,000.00 from Parks and Recreation)
3. Contracts Amended Gulf Coast Workforce Board, Inc.

- Change Order #15 GAC Contractors, Inc - Road Bond Project - (Bid #0607-11 * Increase \$144,926.20)
 - Change Order #1 GAC Contractors, Inc. (Iola Road Stormwater Improvement Project * Decrease \$423,223.01)
 - Change Order #1 Retherford Contracting, Inc. (White City Boat Ramp Dock Repair * Increase \$675.00)
4. Donation/Fee Waiver Honeyville Community Center (Gulf County Farm Bureau)
 5. Fee Waiver Honeyville Community Center (Wewahitchka Warrior Football League)
 6. Invoices - GAC Contractors, Inc. (Iola Road Stormwater Improvement Bid #0708-36 * #5925 * \$334,814.57 * to be paid from Account #33537-63000)
 - Gulf Bay Reporting (Fred Johnson vs. Gulf County Case No. 06-325-CA * #KE08-1920 * \$356.00)
 - Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center (October, 2008 * \$175.00 * to be paid from Account #21111-31300)
 - Retherford Contracting, Inc. (White City Boat Ramp Repair Project * #2648-558 * \$675.00 to be paid from Account #41779-63001)
 - St. Joseph Bay Humane Society (\$5,000.00 * to be paid from Account #43262-82000)
 - St. Joe Hardware (#321812 * \$4,140.00 to be paid from Account #33537-34000)
 - Wilkinson & Associates Certified Court Reporters (Transcript Costs * Fred Johnson vs Gulf County and DCA * #LM08-030A * \$292.60)
 7. S.H.I.P. - Purchase Assistance (\$17,500.00 Tammy Lanier)
 - S.H.I.P. - Rehabilitation Assistance (\$18,000.00 Eddie Fields)
 8. TDC Appointment of TDC Board Member (John Reeves)

(End of Consent Agenda)

SUPPLEMENTAL CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Williams, and a 4-0 vote, the Board approved the following supplemental consent agenda items. Commissioner Yeager abstained due to having a business relationship with Preble-Rish, Inc.

Invoices - Preble-Rish, Inc. Honeyville Park Phase II (#65832 * \$2,500.00 *
to be paid from Account #26472-31000)

- Preble-Rish, Inc. Iola Road Stormwater Improvements (#65885 *
\$18,375.00 to be paid from Account #33537-
63000)

- Preble-Rish, Inc. Stumphole Revetment Project (#65891 *
\$33,108.00 * to be paid from Account #40249-31000)

- Preble-Rish, Inc. Honeyville Park Phase II (#65901 * \$890.00 *
to be paid from Account #26472-31000)

- Preble-Rish, Inc. Route 30A Stormwater Pipe Crossing (#77282 *
\$880.00 * to be paid from Account #26937-31000)

(End of Supplemental Consent Agenda)

COURTHOUSE CLOSURE/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier inquired as to the Board's wishes concerning the closure of the Courthouse on Friday, December 26th. Commissioner McLemore stated that he supported this and motioned to officially close the Courthouse for business on Friday, December 26, 2008. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

INVOICE/EASTERN COASTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC./WHITE CITY BOAT RAMP BULKHEAD BID#0708-34

Pursuant to Change Order #1 and recommendation by Grant Writer Towan Kopinsky, Commissioner Williams motioned to pay invoice #2008-43 in the amount of \$5,440.00 to Eastern Coastal Construction, Inc. for work done on the White City Boat Ramp Bulkhead; to be paid from FBIP funds (account #41779-63001). Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

INVOICE/PREBLE-RISH,INC./LANDFILL SERVICES

Upon recommendation by Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Commissioner Peters motioned to pay invoice #65911 in the amount of \$23,076.25 (\$2,683.50 FY08-09/\$20,392.75 FY07-08) to Preble-Rish, Inc. for services at Five Points and Buckhorn landfills; to be paid from Long-Term Care account #46234-31000. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Commissioner Yeager abstained due to having a business relationship with Preble-Rish, Inc.

MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Solid Waste Director/Mosquito Control Director Danford reported that last week he attended the Florida Mosquito Control Association Conference and Mosquito Control Assistant Director Mark Cothran received an award for his work on the State Surveillance program, Gulf County received an award for turning in all their paperwork on time, and he himself won the Director II award for the State of Florida. The Board offered their congratulations.

EMS DEPARTMENT

Chairman Traylor commended EMS Director Shane McGuffin for the excellent job he does for the County as the EMS Director. Chairman Traylor further discussed the EMS building and stated that the Board is trying to come up with a plan to improve the condition of the building. EMS Director McGuffin approached the Board and discussed the possibility of a new Station but stated he understands the poor economic situation. He further stated that their immediate need is the roof which leaks and causes the interior to get wet (estimated to be a \$9,000.00 job). EMS Director McGuffin requested the Board allow him to wait until funds become available, stating that he may have the money to pay for the roof repair from the EMS budget.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Human Resource Director Denise Manuel updated the Board on the new website address and new email addresses forthcoming.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Planner David Richardson reported that the County is progressing well on their Comprehensive Plan issues.

E.P.A. PROPOSED COW TAX

Planner Richardson brought to the Boards attention pages 27-28 of the Information packet, stating that this EPA proposed "Cow Tax" could have some pretty serious implications.

P.D.R.B. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Commissioner McLemore motioned to extend Jim Norton's term and appoint him to again serve on the PDRB Committee. Discussion ensued concerning the difficulty in getting citizens to serve on these committees and the need to appoint citizen representatives from each District. Commissioner Williams then seconded the motion. Chief Administrator Butler commented on the Boards 2-term limit policy and the Boards desire to extend that term limit. Discussion continued. The motion then passed unanimously.

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE/WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT EXTENSION

Chief Administrator Butler reported that the Solid Waste Committee met on 11/19/08. He further stated that the current contract expires on 2/24/09 and the Committee recommends to the Board that a request be made to Waste Management to extend the contract up to 90 days to allow for sufficient time to solicit proposals. Commissioner Yeager motioned to request Waste Management to extend their contract up to 90 days. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion for discussion. The motion then passed 5-0.

STATE FUNDING/C.B.I.R.S.

Chief Administrator Butler reported on the conference attended last week by Commissioners Williams and Yeager and the discussions about state-wide economic concerns. He further referenced a memorandum received from House Speaker Ray Sansom and Senate President Jeff Atwater, reporting that due to fiscal challenges, the State will not be opening the Community Budget Issue Request System (CBIRS) this year. Commissioner Yeager discussed making application for projects through other methods and through Representative Jimmy Patronis, as the County did prior to the CBIRS program. Commissioner Williams agreed, and upon inquiry by Chief Administrator Butler, he stated that applications should not veer from project priorities that the County has previously voted on.

INVOICE/PRECISION COMMUNICATIONS, INC./COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM UPGRADE BID#0708-38

Chief Administrator Butler recommended the Board approve payment of invoice #46084 in the amount of \$12,983.15 from Precision Communications, Inc. for work done on the Communications System upgrade. Commissioner Peters motioned to pay the invoice.

Commissioner Yeager seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA'S STIMULUS PACKAGE/INFRASTRUCTURE

Chief Administrator Butler discussed President-Elect Obama's proposed stimulus package whereby he wants to allocate funds for infrastructure (water, sewer, roadways, etc.). Chief Administrator Butler discussed sending letters to State and Federal Agencies, NACo, FAC, and our State and Federal Delegation requesting their support for a local infrastructure economic stimulus package (estimated to be \$8m for Gulf County), in lieu of federal or state level infrastructure projects. Chairman Traylor stated that local contractors would benefit from this; providing local jobs and stimulating local economies. Commissioner McLemore stated that if the Federal Government would lighten up on the Net Ban regulations, Raffield's Fisheries, Inc. could put 100 people to work.

SMALL COUNTY COALITION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Williams, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board appointed Commissioner Yeager to serve as Gulf County's representative on the Small County Coalition, replacing former Commissioner Jerry Barnes.

STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

Commissioner Yeager discussed drafting a resolution to send to all Florida counties requesting support for their initiative to have the Federal economic stimulus package allocated and used for local government infrastructure needs. No action was taken on the proposed resolution. Upon Chief Administrator Butler's recommendation, Commissioner Yeager moved for staff to make an official recommendation to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) asking them to, in turn, make the same recommendation to every State. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISTRICT THREE/ELECTIONS

Commissioner Williams congratulated Commissioner's Yeager and McLemore on their successful elections, and thanked the constituents of District three for their support and confidence in him by electing him to serve a second term.

BEACHES/HIGHLAND VIEW/BEACON HILL PROJECTS/CITY OF PORT ST. JOE

Commissioner Williams expressed his concerns with the City and the time involved with this project, stating that funds have been allocated, and requested the Boards continued support to see this project through.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS VOTING EQUIPMENT

Commissioner Williams discussed the old/junked items stored at the shed at White City Park and stated that he will be contacting Supervisor of Elections, Linda Griffin to get the voting equipment relocated.

STATE BUDGET CHALLENGES

Commissioner Williams gave an overview of what the State is facing as far as budget challenges, and the possibility of the Legislature going into special session to address some of the issues involved with the declining economy. Commissioner Williams commented that State budget cuts will ultimately make its way down to the local level.

MEETING WITH CITY OF PORT ST. JOE

Commissioner Williams updated the Board on his meeting with the City concerning our Parks.

STRATEGIC PLAN/LONG-TERM GOALS

Commissioner Williams expressed the importance of working together with our Municipalities, the Port Authority, and Hospital. He stated that his objective, over the next 30 days, is to set an Agenda for the Board and to plan where they are going in the next year, and the next three-five years.

COURTHOUSE REPAIRS/RENOVATION

Commissioner Peters inquired about the status of the Courthouse repairs and renovations, and requested Chief Administrator Butler to get the Maintenance staff back on that project by next week. Commissioner Peters reiterated that this is the County's #1 priority and will remain such as he takes over the Chairmanship in January, 2009.

STATE CONSTITUTION MUSEUM

Commissioner Peters discussed his disapproval of the States proposed closing of the State Constitution Museum. Commissioner Peters requested Chief Administrator Butler to

check on the status of its closure and report back at the next regular board meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Commissioner Peters discussed organizations that are working hard to bring in jobs, which is a priority for this County. Commissioner Peters praised the E.D.C. for the excellent job they are doing. Tom Graney, Chairman of the E.D.C., appeared before the Board to update the Board on activities of the E.D.C. Mr. Graney informed the Board Mr. Bob Aidee, a professional whose job is to find areas for businesses to locate, visited and made an assessment of Gulf County. Mr. Graney stated that Mr. Aidee's assessment was very upbeat and encouraging, stating that our most marketable asset is our work force. E.D.C. Chairman Graney informed the Board that they (E.D.C.) currently have three (3) very serious inquiries that he will give an update on in January or February, 2009.

BODIE LISTER ROAD

Commissioner McLemore discussed an issue of constituents being run off the Bodie Lister Road, which is a County Road. Commissioner McLemore requested County Attorney McFarland to look into the matter.

INDIAN PASS BOAT RAMP

Commissioner Yeager discussed a safety issue at Indian Pass Boat Ramp with some handrails being down. Commissioner Yeager stated that the cost to repair the handrails is approximately \$500.00 and he will utilize FBIP funds to pay for it. The Board had no objection. Patricia Hardman approached to Board and stated that the damage to the handrails was caused by a storm.

STUMPHOLE REVETMENT PROJECT/PERMIT

Commissioner Yeager reported that the County finally received the permit from DEP for the Stumphole Revetment Project and work should start within the next few weeks.

BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT/BID#0607-34

Commissioner Yeager inquired about the status of FEMA reimbursement for sand lost on the project during the storms. Chief Administrator Butler reported that application has been made for the Berm money (un-nourished portion) and, an assessment has been made on the loss for the part of the beach that has been nourished.

VOTING PRECINCTS

Chairman Traylor discussed budget cuts that caused the closure of several voting precincts within the County and the inconvenience to citizens having to drive 36-38 miles round trip to vote. Commissioner Williams made a motion to review and make a cost analysis on reinstating all the voting precincts prior to the 2010 election. Commissioner Yeager seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LOCAL BUSINESS/BIDDER PREFERENCE POLICY

Chairman Traylor discussed the need for clarity of the definition of a local business in their bid policy. Chief Administrator Butler stated that he would bring a recommendation back to the Board. County Attorney McFarland stated that there are a lot of rules that apply to this and Florida Statutes have competitive bidding requirements, but there are exceptions to this, one being the local bidder preference. County Attorney McFarland stated that he would further define "local business" and bring it back to the Board for review and consideration.

SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION/SPECIAL ELECTION

Superintendent of Schools, Tim Wilder and School Board Member, George Cox appeared before the Board and presented a resolution requesting the Board of County Commissioners to call a special election for March 17, 2009, for the qualified electors of the Gulf County School District to vote on an ad valorem millage increase of 1 mill for operating expenditures of the School District, as authorized by Section 1011.71(6), Florida Statutes. Superintendent Wilder stated that the ad valorem millage increase would be for the next four years and will be used to help fund the General Operating budget of the school system in order to keep a good quality school system and hopefully limit layoffs.

Superintendent Wilder stated that the ½ cent sales tax that passed back in the '70's by the voters, for the Port St. Joe Elementary School infrastructure improvements, will be paid off in June 2009. School Board Member Cox stated that the School Board is asking the voters to allow them to use one-mill of their two-mill Local Capital Improvement tax for operating expenditures. He explained that the Local Capital Improvement does not have to go to the voters, but if it is used for anything other than Local Capital Improvements (such as General Operating expenditures), it has to be approved by referendum. School Board member Cox stated that their Board has no other option. Upon Board Chairman Traylor's inquiry, Superintendent Wilder stated that the main reason this was not on the ballot in November was the School Board did not know how bad it was going to be in fiscal year 2009-2010 until his meeting with the Superintendent Commissioner and the Governor's staff. He stated that the School Board felt they might be able to get through with minimal cuts, but it's not. Board Chairman Traylor voiced his concerns with getting a fair representation of voter turnout. Superintendent Wilder stated that it is ultimately up to the voters as to how many turnout to vote, but he will do all he can to get the information out to the public.

Superintendent Wilder stated that, based on property values as of today, the estimated revenue to be generated over the four-year period, if this passes, will be \$10 million. Commissioner Williams stated that the County is not an advocate for or against the one-mill increase, but by placing this on the ballot will allow voters a chance to voice their opinions. Upon inquiry by Commissioner Williams, Superintendent Wilder confirmed that

all election cost would be paid by the School Board. Superintendent Wilder then gave a power point presentation. Commissioner Williams motioned to support the Resolution allowing this to be placed on the ballot for March 17, 2009, with the stipulation that all costs, direct and indirect, would be paid by the School Board. Commissioner Yeager seconded for discussion. Following discussion, the motion and second was amended to be contingent upon the local school board ½ cent sales tax bond being paid off in June 2009. The motion, as amended, was then passed unanimously.

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 7:48 p.m., E.T.

BILLY E. TRAYLOR
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK

